

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 05090 112114Z
ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 DEAE-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00
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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: SNAR, TU
SUBJ: GOT PLANNING TO DECREASE POPPY STRAW PRODUCTION, INCREASE
QUALITY

1. LOCAL PRESS QUOTES TURKISH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL AS
STATING THAT GOT WILL DECIDE THIS MONTH ON MEASURES TO
DECREASE POPPY PRODUCTION AND INCREASE POPPY QUALITY.
2. PRO-GOVERNMENT "MILLIYET" (323,000) OF JULY 7 SAYS
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WILL EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF LIMITING
POPPY GROWING AREA TO 400,000 DECARES (40,000 HECTARES) AND
WILL SEEK WAYS TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF POPPY CAPSULES.
3. FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE FOLLOWS: QUOTE MINISTER OF
AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND LIVESTOCK, MEHMET YUCELER, SAID THAT
"POPPY CULTIVATION AND PRODUCTION CAPACITY HAS INCREASED
TO A LEVEL MANY TIMES IN EXCESS OF WORLD DEMAND; THOUSANDS
OF TONE OF CAPSULE STOCKS REMAIN ON HAND, AND THE
QUALITY OF POPPY CAPSULES IS FALLING. A DEFINITE
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 05090 112114Z

REMEDY WILL BE FOUND FOR THIS AT MEETINGS TO BE HELD
THROUGHOUT THIS MONTH. OUR VIEW IS THAT PRODUCTION
SHOULD BE ADJUSTED AND ARRANGED ACCORDING TO THE
CAPACITY OF THE ALKALOID FACTORY CURRENTLY BEING CON-
STRUCTED AT BOLVADIN," HE SAID.
QUOTE THE MINISTER STATED THAT THE CAPACITY OF THE
FACTORY, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO START OPERATING IN 1979,

WILL BE 20,000 TONS OF CAPSULES. HE ADDED THAT 400,000 DECARES WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO PRODUCE THIS AMOUNT ASSUMING THAT AN AVERAGE OF 60 TO 65 KILOGRAMS OF CAPSULES ARE PRODUCED PER DECARE.

QUOTE HE SAID, "THE MINISTRY WILL EMPHASIZE ON THE ONE HAND THAT THE AREA UNDER CULTIVATION MUST NOT EXCEED 400,000 DECARES ALTOGETHER, AND ON THE OTHER HAND THAT THE QUALITY OF THE POPPY CAPSULE MUST REMAIN AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. WE WILL ACCOMPLISH THIS THROUGH PURCHASE PRICES, AND WE WILL NOT PAY THESE PRICES FOR LOW QUALITY CAPSULES." END QUOTE

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY ESTIMATES THAT APPROXIMATELY 500,000 DECARES OF POPPIES IN TURKEY WILL BE HARVESTED THIS YEAR. ALMOST ONE MILLION DECARES WERE LICENSED FOR THIS GROWING SEASON. SOIL PRODUCTS OFFICE (TMO) OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD EMBOFFS THEY HAVE SUGGESTED TO YUCELER REDUCTION IN AUTHORIZED PLANTING AREA PER FARMER IN 1978-1979 PLANTING SEASON FROM 5 DECARES TO 2 DECARES, A DECREASE COMPARABLE TO THE CUTBACK YUCELER REPORTEDLY PROPOSES. TMO IS PLANNING TO SEEK A GOVERNMENT DECREE FOR REDUCTION OF AREA. IN ORDER TO AVOID CONFUSION AMONG FARMERS APPLYING FOR PLANTING PERMITS FOR 1978-1979 SEASON, DECREE WILL NEED TO BE ISSUED SOON, PROBABLY IN AUGUST.

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PAGE 03 ANKARA 05090 112114Z

5. WE ANTICIPATE THAT TMO WILL CONTINUE TO BUY ALL POPPY CAPSULES BROUGHT IN BY FARMERS. WE BELIEVE THE MINISTER'S STATEMENT INDICATES THAT TMO WILL BEGIN TO USE THE LOWER END OF ITS PRICING SYSTEM WHEN PURCHASING LOWER QUALITY CAPSULES, RATHER THAN CONTINUING TO BUY ALL POPPIES AT OR NEAR TOP END OF PRICING SCALE.

6. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT ONE OF REASONS GOT IS PLANNING TO DECREASE POPPY PLANTING IS THAT THIS WOULD DECREASE THE GOVERNMENT'S LIRA LOSSES FROM POPPY PURCHASES.

7. EMBASSY WILL BE CONTACTING GOT SOURCES FOR A CLARIFICATION OF MINISTER'S STATEMENT. IN PARTICULAR, WE WILL CONFIRM THAT THE PROPOSED 400,000 DECARE LIMIT APPLIES TO THE LICENSED AREA RATHER THAN THE HARVESTED AREA. DILLON

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